

Shady Deal. Identify the features that make Tiffany lamps so desirable for the serious collector.



Collecting Hobbies

Coins Metal Currency through the Ages

With designed coins are works of art that represent more than 25 centuries of man's history and for those reasons alone are worth collecting. The beautiful designs on ancient Greek coins speak frequently of the artistic energies of that amazing people. A Roman coin proclaims the military might of a vast empire. A Renaissance coin announces the recovery of European art and commerce after the doldrums of the Middle Ages. Perhaps the bit of metal you hold in your hand is who knows? a coin once held by Plato or Cleopatra or Leonardo da Vinci. Few collectibles combine so much history with so much beauty. And coins are a good investment. Even the modestly rare ones increase in value every year.

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and the coins of the United States and most other governments are always worth at least their face value.

Today's coins quickly become the collectibles of tomorrow. The best change you had in your pocket little more than a decade ago contained coins that are already collectibles. If you have a small family hoard of old coins in the attic, it doubtless contains some coins that are worth more than their face value.

A couple of the basic lessons of coin collecting—which coins become valuable and why—can most likely be learned if you pull the change you have right now out on a table. It is likely to include, for example, two kinds of coins with Lincoln on the obverse, or heads, side. One is the "wheat" cent, so called because of the two ears of wheat on the reverse, or tails, side of the coin. The other shows the Lincoln Memorial on the reverse. The wheat cent, last minted in 1958, is vanishing from circulation. Eventually it will be found only at coin dealers, just as the Indian Head cent, common a generation or so ago, now survives only in the hands of collectors and dealers.

Coin collectors refer to a change in the design of a coin as a change of type. When a coin changes type, the older, superseded design becomes increasingly scarce.

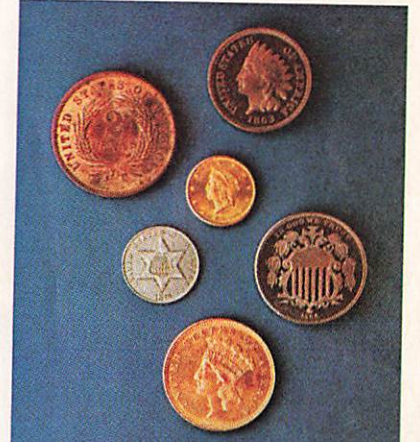
A change in the material from which coins are made can also render older coins more collectible, sometimes with dramatic results. The chances are that your pocket change will not contain a dime, quarter or half dollar dated earlier than 1965. The reason is this: before 1965 these coins were made primarily of silver. But in the mid-1960s the price of the silver needed to mint the coins began to exceed their face value; that is, it took more than 25 cents' worth of silver to make a quarter.

The Coinage Act of 1965 required that thereafter coins be produced with less silver, and since then most collectors (and hoarders) began to make a profit on the silver they began pulling the coins out of circulation. Now anyone who finds a silver coin in his pocket is in luck, although he probably has not struck a rich vein. While before 1965 dimes in uncirculated condition increased in value by more than 700 per cent in 25 years, that still made a dime coin worth only 75 cents.

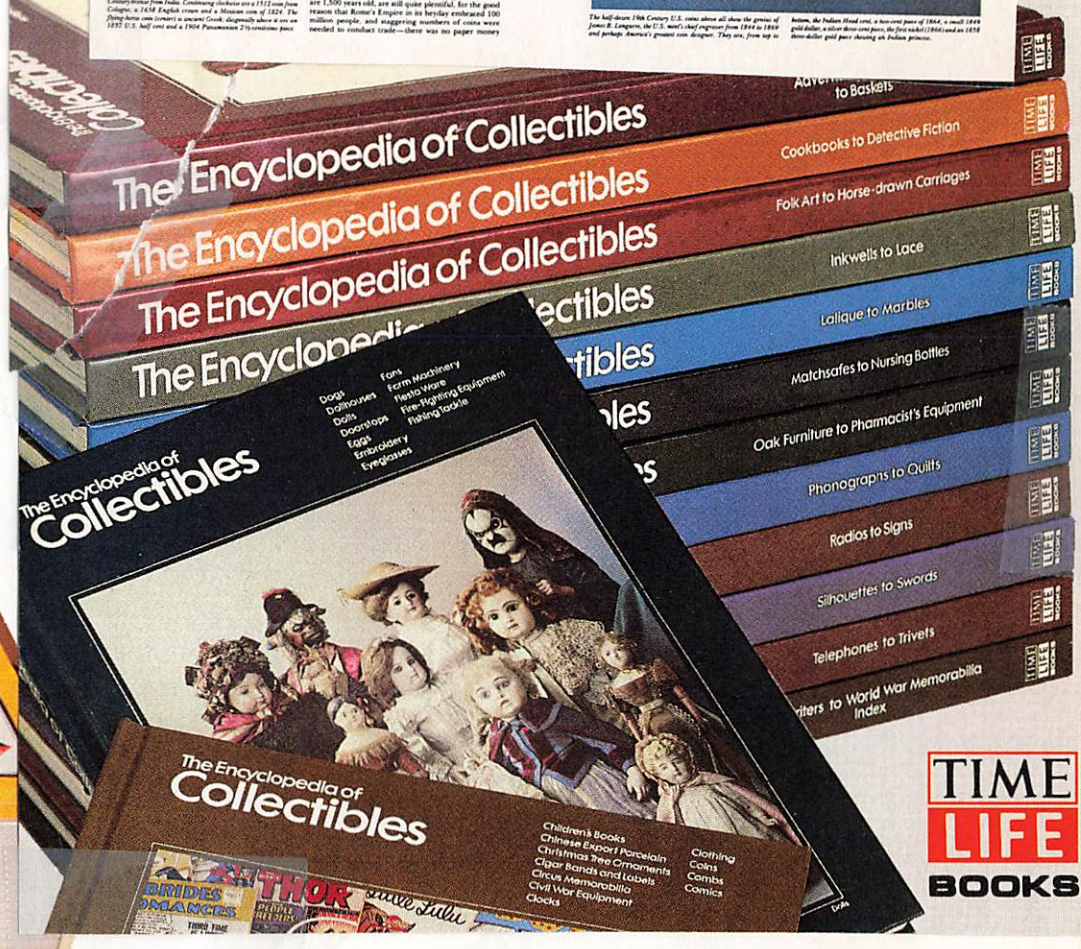
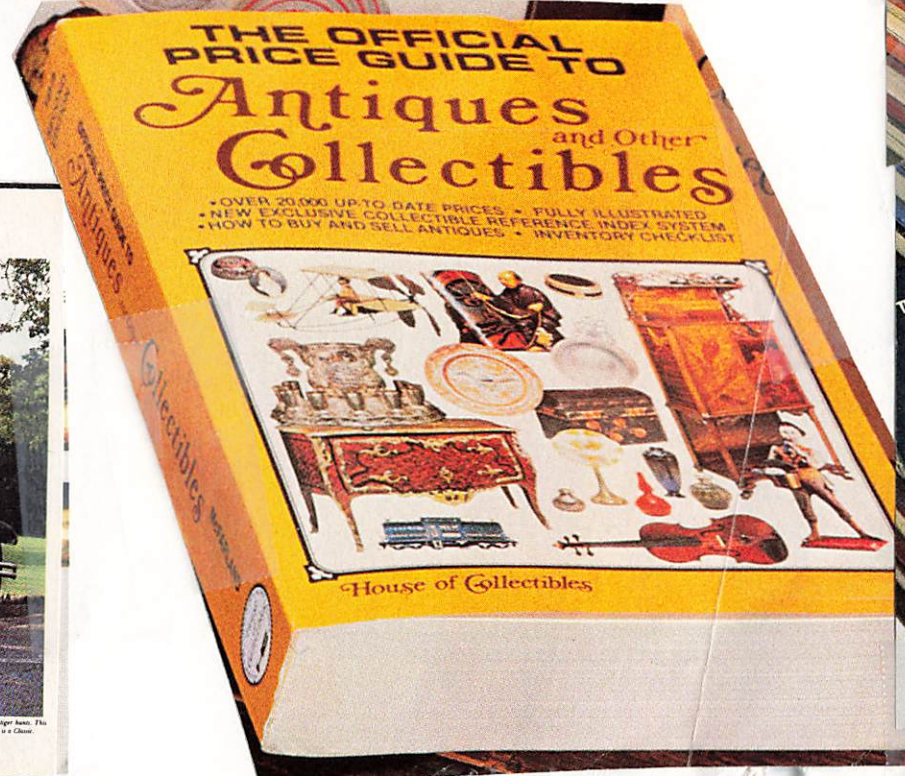
A paradoxical fact emerges from these examples: coins become more valuable and collectible when they were made, that is, when as a medium of exchange. One out of circulation they become rare.

Rarity is also influenced by another factor: how many of the coins were minted and released in the first place. For example, only about 1,000 coins with a flying eagle design on the reverse were minted in 1860. One of these coins brought \$2,000 when sold in 1978.

Age plays a part in a coin's rarity—with the passage of years coins get less or more available. But age is not as important a consideration as you might assume. Some of the commonest coins of ancient Rome, although the newest are 1,500 years old, are still quite plentiful, for the good reason that Rome's Empire in its heyday employed 100 million people, and staggering numbers of coins were needed to conduct trade—there was no paper money



The half-dollar 1964 U.S. coin above all shows the genius of James D. Longacre, the U.S. mint chief engineer from 1844 to 1860 and perhaps America's greatest coin designer. They are, from top to bottom, the Indian Head cent, a two-cent piece of 1864, a small 1869 gold dollar, a silver dollar coin, the first nickel (1863) and an 1870 three-cent nickel gold piece showing an Indian prince.



**TIME
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Populists with money for the world over, the Packard Custom Eight was considered by many the finest car money could buy in the late 20s. One 1930 version, a Model 7400 seven passenger sedan, is at Chrysler.

Collecting
Hobbies

Dollhouses Homes Built for Play

When I was five years old I was given my first doll. I did not like her, so I removed her pink dress and bonnet and dressed her in my doll's dress. In time, I gave her my doll's dress.



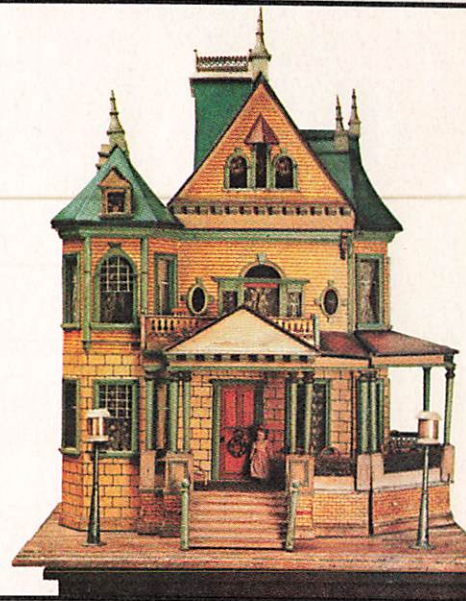
States since the late 19th Century. Some of them are the handwork of doing fathers and sons, or of immigrant craftsmen, but most were mass-produced by a number of firms in a variety of businesses, such as the toy manufacturers, McLaughlin Bros. New York (page 18).

In the early 20th Century, a number of toy companies had taken the lead in the manufacturing of dollhouses and the furniture to go with them. Chief among them were the R. H. Manufacturing Co., A. Schenck & Co., Trueman, Trueman & Co. (the latter Manufacturing Company), N. D. Case Co., and M. E. Gervais & Son.

The oldest American manufacturer of dollhouses was founded in Providence, Rhode Island, in 1832, but made dollhouses only in the early 1900s. His work has collectors for the colorful beauty of his designs. The company's products were the most popular of their kind. When first offered for sale, the dollhouses were for five dollars, but the smallest reached \$125.

A Philadelphia company of Philadelphia, producing miniature houses in their dolls and trunks. During the early 1900s, they produced dollhouses in 1917, at 15 Henry's, which were made of wood or fiberboard. A dollhouse was set up in

1917, by Marion I. Perkins and her husband, who had been a dollhouse maker since 1870. It was made of wood and was made of wood.



Hundreds of color photographs in each volume show you the close-up, sometimes intricate details that can make an item unusually valuable.

The Shakers' Special Touches



With the exception of tilters for chairs (below, right), Shaker furniture construction was not unique. But the Shakers strove for excellence in the application of standard methods. They took great pains, and they routinely used very fine cabinetry techniques such as dovetailing (opposite, bottom left). And, because they believed in honest simplicity, they often left construction details exposed rather than hiding them as other woodworkers customarily did.

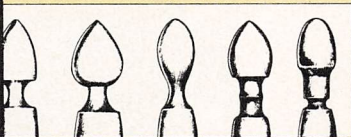
The design and construction visible in the pieces illustrated on these pages can help identify Shaker furniture. Their presence is not in itself proof; however, the presence of all such features that are applicable to the piece supports evidence of style in confirming Shaker origin. And if none of these techniques can be recognized in a piece, it probably is not Shaker.



Shaker chairs—the type at left is a favorite collectible—generally have backs made of slats with beveled edges (above). The scribe marks on the side posts help position the slat for a pegged mortise joint.



Tilters, introduced by the Shakers, are hemispherical feet (above). Tied to cups by thongs in the legs, they rotated to stay flat on the floor when the chair is tipped back. A thing can be seen in a slot in the leg.

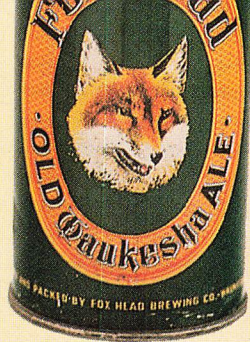
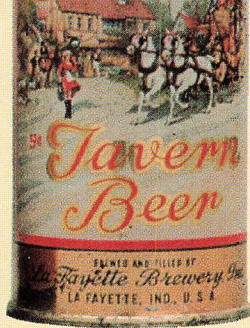
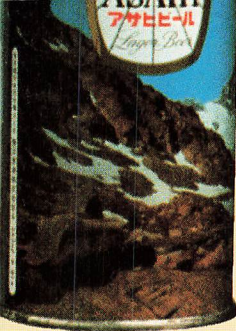


The characteristic finials that Shakers fashioned on the side posts of their chairs are shown in the shape.

made by Shakers in the Canterbury, New Hampshire, community. All of the others appear on chairs made in New Lebanon, New York, New York, and Hancock, Massachusetts.

Rocking chairs with arms were the Shakers' most popular model with their outside customers and are the most popular with 20th Century collectors. This one, with a seat 22 inches wide, is a No. 7, the largest built. The top rail, unique to Shaker chairs, was used to suspend a cushion, though it is called a shovel rail.





Baby Doll. *China dolls, wooden
dolls, rag dolls, even Barbie dolls—
find out which ones attract
top prices.*

